

## Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

/088 W

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P 151130Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2896

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2091

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, JO, SA, LE, US

SUBJECT: TAPLINE PROBLEMS: "TEMPORARY" SHUTDOWN PAST ZERKA

REF: AMMAN 1075 AND EARLIER

SUMMARY. TAPLINE HAS CEASED PUMPING CRUDE PAST ZERKA  
DUE MOUNTING STOCKS AND LOW EXPORTS SIDON. GOL WARY  
BUT NOT EXPECTED REACT NOW SINCE STOCKS AMPLE FOR  
LOCAL NEEDS FOR NEXT SIX MONTHS. IN JORDAN ZERKA  
SUPPLIES CONTINUE AT 2300 TONS. END SUMMARY.

1. ASKED ABOUT SITUATION THIS WEEK, TAPTINE REP.  
DODGE REVEALED THAT TAPLINE FEBRUARY 9 CEASED PUMPING  
CRUDE PAST ZERK (JORDAN) TO SIDON TERMINAL BECAUSE  
TERMINAL STORAGE 85 PER CENT FULL (3.4 MILLION  
BARRELS) AND ONLY ONE SMALL TANKER NOMINATED TTIS  
MONTH. HE NOTED CRUDE ON HAND EQUIVALENT SIX  
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MONTHS SUPPLY FOR MEDRECO REFINERY AT TERMINAL,

ASSURING SUPPLIES TO LEBANON.

2. DODGE SAID GOL WAS INFORMED THAT THROUGHPUT TO SIDON HALTED " FOR THEE TIME BEING" AND THAT THIS NORMAL PROCEDURE UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES. GOL OILMIN RESPONDED FEBRUARY 13 THAT GOL WILL NOT REACT IMMEDIATELY UNLESS TAPLINE TAKES FURTHER STEPS AFFECTING STOCKS, ACCORDING DODGE.

3. REGARDING JORDAN, DODGE SAID SHUTOFF WOULD NOT RPT NOT RAISE PRESSURE ENOUGH TO PERMIT FULL DAILY REQUIREMENTS TO ZERKA, WHICH CONTINUES RECEIVE 2300 TONS DAILY (BUT NEEDS 2900 TONS). HE NOTED JORDANIANS APPARENTLY INSPIRED PRESS STORIES BEGINNING FEBRUARY 12.

4. DODGE SAID THAT TAPLINE WISHES INFORM JORDANIANS OF SHUTDOWN AND ASKED THAT EMBASSIES REFRAIN FROM DOING SO.

5. FYI: FOLLOWING RECEIPT REFTEL, WE ASKED DODGE ABOUT RIFAI PLAIN PARA FOUR THAT DODGE RESPONSE OVERDUE. DODGE SAID PM MUST BE REFERRING THEIR JANUARY 25 MEETING; DODGE PROVIDED NEGATIVE RESPONSE PM'S OFFER FEBRUARY 1 TO MINISTERS ECONOMY AND FINANCE, WHO WERE TO SEE PM FEBRUARY 2 (DODGE NOTED PM PROBABLY DID NOT LIKE RESPONSE). DODGE ADDED THAT TAPLINE HAS JUST RECEIVED PM LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 9 CONTAINING SAME OFFER IN WRITING AND TAPLINE RESPONDING NEGATIVELY IN WRITING. IF PM GENUINELY CONFUSED OVER STATUS EMBASSY MAY WISH CONTACT DODGE THROUGH US TO AVOID UNNECESSARY IRRITANTS. DODGE PRESENTLY DOES NOT RPT NOT EXPECT VISIT AMMAN NEAR FUTURE BUT EXPECTS BRIEF EMBASSY NEXT TRIP AND PROBABLY WOULD MAKE SPECIAL VISIT TO EMBASSY IF DESIRED. LASTLY, DODGE SAID THAT GOL CONTACT LAST NIGHT TOLD HIM JORDANIANS HAVE THREE MONTH PETROLEUM SUPPLIES. END FYI.

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COMMENT: ALTHOUGH TAPLINE STORAGE WOULD NOT HAVE REACHED FOUR MILLION BARREL CAPACITY FOR ANOTHER TWO MONTHS UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS, TAPLINE HAS FAULTLESS TECHNICAL AND SECURITY GROUNDS FOR STOPPING FLOW NOW. LEBANESE OBVIOUSLY SUSPECT PRESSURE TACIC BUT DODGE EXPECTS NO RPT NO RASH REACTION NOW UNLESS TAPLINE, FOR EXAMPLE, EXPORTS ONE MILLION BARRELS FROM STORAGE WITHOUT RESUMING

PUMPING.WE TOO SEE SITUAATION AS OPPORTUNITY FOR  
TAPLINE TO PRESSURE GOL OVER ITS DEBT. IF  
TAPLINE INTENTIONALLY COURTING NATIONALIZATIOO IT  
PROBABLY AS PART OF OVERALL ARAMCO STRATEGY IN  
SAUDI TAKEOVER NEGOTIATIONS.  
HOUGHTON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROCUREMENT, PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM PIPELINES, LOANS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** ENRG, JO, SA, LE, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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